

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: October 10, 2006

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 2

CONSENT: X

REGULAR:

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: X

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: Approve Increased Speeding Fines for Alta Lane/Melinda Drive/Del Ray Circle

RECOMMENDATION: Approve specifying Melinda Drive, Alta Lane, and Del Ray Circle as a speed zone per Section 25-193.1 of City Code and Section 46.2-878.2 of Virginia Code.

SUMMARY: In February, Council approved an amendment to City Code allowing the designation of speed zones within residential neighborhoods. These speed zones specify that the minimum fines will be \$200 plus any existing fines for speeding. According to State Code, these zones have to be properly designated with the fines clearly posted. If Council approves this action, Community Development will install additional signs underneath the existing speed limit signs informing motorists about the additional penalty.

Last year, Council also approved the Wards Crossing West project which specified traffic calming measures on Melinda Drive and Alta Lane and also allocated \$100,000 towards their construction. Although this is not a physical traffic calming device, it is an effective traffic speed mitigation tool and can be in place almost immediately with little cost. The second phase of this project is to implement physical measures such as speed tables, traffic circles and or chokers/islands. The second phase is also underway with a community meeting held in September.

A letter was sent out to the residents (see attached) on August 18, 2006 informing them of this decision and requesting any feedback as necessary. This letter was sent to all residents on Melinda Drive, Alta Lane, and Del Ray Circle. All comments received from this correspondence 4 were either questions or minor in nature.

PRIOR ACTION(S):

The Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) was approved on December 13, 2005.
The amendment to City Code for Speeding Fines was approved February 14, 2006.
Physical Development Committee September 26, 2006

FISCAL IMPACT: Speeding ticket proceeds could increase due to increased fines. Negligible increase due to additional signage requirements.

CONTACT(S): Lee Newland, 455-3947; Gerry Harter, 455-3935

ATTACHMENT(S): Letter sent to residents informing them of speed zone designation.

REVIEWED BY: lkp

Residents of Vista Acres and Surrounding Areas

RE: Increased Speeding Fines on Melinda Drive, Alta Lane and Del Ray Circle

Dear Resident;

As you may be aware, one of the conditions of approval for the new Wards Crossing West project (across from Target on Wards Ferry Road) was to implement traffic calming measures on Melinda Drive and Alta Lane. The purpose of traffic calming is to reduce vehicle speeds on residential streets. A traffic study concluded that on average, vehicles are traveling 10 mph over the speed limit on both of these roadways with the highest speeds of well over 40 mph. This high speed creates safety issues as well as potentially decreasing the livability of your neighborhood.

This traffic calming project will be completed in two phases: Phase 1 of this project will be to increase the speeding fines on Melinda Drive, Alta Lane and Del Ray Circle; and Phase 2 of the project will be to meet with the neighborhood to discuss actual physical measures in the street such as speed tables, traffic circles and other potential traffic calming devices. Phase 2 will be presented shortly to the neighborhood.

The increased speeding fine will be an additional \$200 added to the regular speeding ticket fines. This additional fine will be posted beneath the existing speed limit signs. The larger fine will deter drivers from speeding through the neighborhood. It is anticipated that the increased fines will be implemented in October after City Council has had a chance to review the proposal. Authority for the increased speeding fines is given under Section 25-193.1 of City Code and Section 46.2-878.2 of Virginia Code.

The City believes that this is an appropriate first step to minimize speeders through your neighborhood. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 434-455-3935 or you can go to our web site and learn more about the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) at the address below:

http://www.lynchburgva.gov/docs/traffic_calming_rev_lynchburg_rev_dec_final.pdf.

Sincerely

Gerry Harter
City of Lynchburg Traffic Engineer

CC: Lee Newland
Charles Bennet

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